(c) Under the wet-leased agreement, M/s. Airclub International is required to provide aircraft, crew including cabin crew, maintenance and insurance. Air India has to bear the cost of all other items including fuel.

In case of IL-62 M, Aeroflot is required to provide aircraft, flight crew and minimum cabin crew complement, fuel, handling and landing charges etc. Air India is required to bear the cost of aircraft insurance, passenger and baggage legal liability, booking agency commission etc.

(d) Air India plans to continue renewal of its fleet during the Ninth Plan period. Air India has acquired two Boeing 747-400 aircraft during October-November, 1996 as a part of its fleet renewal plan and to augment capacity. Proposals for acquisition of one more B747-400 aircraft and three A310-300 aircraft are under consideration. In addition, Air India will also purchase a number of MCLR aircraft.

Providing Uplinking Facilities to earn more Foreign Exchange

*152. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether giving uplinking facilities on Indian soil to satellite television channels will help earn more foreign exchange and also increase employment potential;

(b) whether Government propose to set up an independent broadcasting authority for this purpose;

(c) the fee proposed to be levied on private channels for uplinking from Indian soil; and

(d) measures taken to popularise the Doordarshan International Channels?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The issue of permitting uplinking facilities from Indian soil is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This and other related issues including setting up of autonomous broadcasting authority would be taken care of by the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

(d) Various measures such as increasing the telecast time, showing programmes/films including in regional languages for benefit of NRI's live telecasting of events of national importance, publicising channel programmes and schedules etc. have been taken to increase the popularity of Doordarshan international. Further, our missions abroad have been asked to give wide publicity to the telecast schedules and also give no-objection certificates to cable operators willing to downlink DD international channel for further distribution.

Twisting of Rules by Doordarshan for Rating Sponsored Programmes to favour Private Producers

*153. SHRI O.S. MANIAN:
SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has twisted rules for rating its sponsored programmes to favour certain private producers;

(b) if so, what is the loss incurred by Government on this account; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the guilty officials of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Handing over the task of Organising International Film Festivals to the Film Industry

*154. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Film Festival of India was held at Tiruvananthapuram in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the profit earned therefrom;

(c) the shortcomings noticed during the festival including the selection of films;

(d) whether Government propose to hand over the task of organising the International Film Festivals to the film industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind such move?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Amount of Rs. 155 lakhs was sanctioned for the purpose with a proposed contribution of the Government of Kerala to the extent of Rs. 80 lakhs. The International Film Festival being a promotional activity and the question of earning profits does not arise.

(c) No serious shortcomings were noticed during the festival.

(d) No Sir,

(e) Does not arise.

Demands submitted by FICCI regarding avoidance of double Taxation

*155. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has submitted certain demands regarding avoidance of double taxation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Madam,

(b) It was, inter-alia, suggested that double taxation of dividends should be avoided and for this purpose either the company should not be taxed in respect of its distributed profits or the shareholders be not taxed on dividend income on which tax has already been paid by the company.

(c) By Finance Bill, 1997, the Government proposes to abolish tax on dividend income in the hands of the shareholders. At the same time, with a view to discouraging companies from declaring exorbitant dividends, a levy by way of tax on distributed profits at the rate of 10 per cent has been proposed on domestic companies.

Teller counter facility in branches of State Bank of Indore

*156. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of Indore situated in Delhi where the teller counter facilities are being provided to the consumers for immediate payment;

(b) the branch-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of branches where this facility has been closed the details of the branches and the reasons for closing them;

(d) whether it is a fact that the employees found guilty in bunglings have been deployed on the teller counters; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) According to information furnished by the State Bank of Indore six Delhi based branches of the State Bank of Indore viz. Rajouri Garden, Chandni Chowk, Connaught Circus, Green Park, Greater Kailash II and Janakpuri had introduced teller counter facilities, at different times. Teller counter facilities at Rajouri Garden, Chandni Chowk and Connaught Circus have been discontinued for more than one year on account of inadequate work for the entire duration of business hours or on account of staff shortage. The teller counter at Green Park has not been functioning since June, 1996. The teller counter at Greater Kailash II functions on a few days every month when there is relatively heavy work on account of payment of pension and salaries. The teller counter at Janakpuri continues to function.

(d) and (e) One employee who has been penalised with stoppage of two annual increments on account of misutilisation of house loan granted to him has been identified as a teller for the Connaught Circus branch. The deployment of employees is a matter to be determined by the management of the bank.